

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

17. (Currently amended) Process of preparing a cross-linked polymer comprising cross-linking ~~a mixture of at least one low molecular weight a first hyaluronic acid salt having a first molecular weight polymer selected from polysaccharides and derivatives thereof and at least one high molecular weight a second hyaluronic acid salt having a second molecular weight greater than the first molecular weight polymer selected from polysaccharides and derivatives thereof~~ in an aqueous solvent in the presence of an effective and non-excessive amount of at least one cross-linking agent, such that the degree of cross-linking, defined by the ratio: 100 x ~~(total number of reactive groups in said cross-linking agent/total number of disaccharide units in the first hyaluronic acid salt and second hyaluronic acid salt)~~, is theoretically between 0.5 and 70%.

Claims 18-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently amended) Process according to claim ~~17, 19 characterized in that wherein at least one of the first and second said~~ hyaluronic acid salts is selected from ~~the a~~ sodium salt, ~~the a~~ potassium salt, and mixtures thereof, ~~and advantageously consists of the sodium salt.~~

21. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17, characterized in that ~~said mixture contains: wherein~~

~~at least one the first hyaluronic acid salt of low has a molecular weight m, where m of no greater than 9.9×10^5 Da $\leq 9.9 \cdot 10^5$ Da, advantageously 10^4 Da $\leq m \leq 9.9 \cdot 10^5$ Da; and at least one the second hyaluronic acid salt of high has a molecular weight of at least M, where M $\geq 10^6$ Da, advantageously 10^6 Da $\leq M \leq 10^8$ Da, and very advantageously $1.1 \cdot 10^6$ Da $\leq M \leq 5 \cdot 10^6$ Da;~~
~~said low molecular weight and high molecular weight salts advantageously being of the same nature and very advantageously consisting of sodium hyaluronate.~~

22. (Currently amended). Process according to claim 17, 21 characterized in that wherein said mixture has an intrinsic viscosity of less than 1900 ml/g.

23. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 21-17, characterized in that wherein said mixture contains more than 50% by weight, ~~advantageously more than 70% by weight~~, of at least one the first hyaluronic acid salt of low molecular weight m, and less than 50% by weight, ~~advantageously less than 30% by weight~~, of at least one the second hyaluronic acid salt of high molecular weight M.

24. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17, 21 characterized in that wherein said mixture contains at least 5% by weight of at least one high molecular weight the second hyaluronic acid salt.

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently amended) Process according of claim 17, characterized in that wherein said cross-linking agent is selected from bifunctional crosslinking agents and mixtures thereof, is advantageously selected from epichlorohydrin, divinyl sulfone, 1,4 bis(2,3-epoxypoxy)butane, 1,2 bis(2,3-epoxypoxy) ethylene, 1-(2,3-epoxypropyl)-2,3-epoxycyclohexane, aldehydes such as formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde and crotonaldehyde, and mixtures thereof, and very advantageously consists of 1,4 bis(2,3-epoxypoxy)butane.

27. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17, characterized in that wherein said effective and non-excessive amount of at least one cross-linking agent is such that the degree of crosslinking, defined by the ratio: $100 \times (\text{total number of reactive groups in said crosslinking agent}) / (\text{total number of disaccharide units in the polymer molecules present})$, cross-linking is theoretically between 0.5 and 70%, advantageously between 4 and 50%.

28. (Currently amended) Process for the preparation of an injectable monophase hydrogel of at least one crosslinked cross-linked hyaluronic acid salt comprising polymer selected from polysaccharides and derivatives thereof, characterized in that it comprises:

the crosslinking of a mixture according to claim 17; and
the formulation of said formulating the crosslinked cross-linked mixture according to claim 17, neutralized if necessary, into a solution buffered to a pH of between 6.5 and 7.5, advantageously of between 7 and 7.4 and very advantageously of between 7.1 and 7.3.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Currently amended) A crosslinked polymer obtainable after a ~~crosslinking~~ cross-linking process according to claim 17 has been carried out.

31. (Previously presented) An injectable monophase hydrogel obtainable after a preparative process according to claim 28 has been carried out.

32. (Cancelled).

33. (New) Process according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the first and second hyaluronic acid salts is a sodium salt.

34. (New) Process according to claim 17, wherein the mixture contains about 90% by weight of the first hyaluronic acid salt and about 10% by weight of the second hyaluronic acid salt, the first hyaluronic acid salt is a sodium salt having a molecular weight of about 3.10^5 Da, and the second hyaluronic acid salt is a sodium salt having a molecular weight of about 3.10^6 Da.

35. (New) Process according to claim 17, wherein the first hyaluronic acid salt has a molecular weight of between 10^4 Da and 9.9×10^5 Da, and the second hyaluronic acid salt has a molecular weight of between 10^6 Da and 10^8 Da.

36 (New) Process according to claim 17, wherein the second hyaluronic acid salt has a molecular weight of between 1.1×10^6 Da and 5×10^6 Da.

37. (New) Process according to claim 17, wherein said mixture contains more than 70% by weight the first hyaluronic acid salt and less than 30% by weight of the second hyaluronic acid salt.

38. (New) Process according to claim 17, wherein said cross-linking agent is selected from epichlorohydrin, divinyl sulfone, 1,4-bis(2,3-epoxypropoxy)butane, 1,2-bis(2,3-epoxypropoxy)ethylene, 1-(2,3-epoxypropyl)-2,3-epoxycyclohexane, aldehydes, and mixtures thereof.

39. (New) Process according to claim 38, wherein said aldehydes are selected from formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, crotonaldehyde, and mixtures thereof.

40. (New) Process according to claim 17, wherein said cross-linking agent is 1,4-bis(2,3-epoxypropoxy)butane.

41. (New) Process according to claim 28, wherein the pH is between 7 and 7.4.

42. (New) Process according to claim 28, wherein the pH is 7.1 and 7.3.